

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended)

A highly filled elastomeric composition comprising
an elastomeric resin,
a filler in an amount ~~having a filler content~~ of about
15% to about 500% by weight of the resin, and
a microsilica in an amount of 1 to 400% by weight of
resin ~~of microsilica~~ as a modifier to improve the
processability, the microsilica being amorphous
particulates having at least 70% by weight SiO₂, a specific
density of 2.1 - 2.3 g/cm³, a surface area of 15-40 m²/g,
and primary particles substantially spherical with an
average size of about 0.15 μm, the amorphous particulates
obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to SiO-
gas and oxidized in vapor phase.

2. (Currently Amended)

The elastomeric composition according to claim 1,
wherein ~~said composition contains~~ the amount of microsilica
is 5 to 300% by weight of resin ~~of microsilica~~.

3. (Currently Amended)

The elastomeric composition according to claim 2, wherein ~~said composition contains~~ the amount of microsilica is 10 to 150% by weight resin—of—microsilica.

4. (Currently Amended)

A method for production of a highly filled elastomeric composition comprising:

forming a highly filled elastomeric composition from an elastomeric resin and a filler, ~~having a filler content~~ in an amount of about 15% to about 500% by weight of the resin; and adding microsilica to the highly filled elastomeric composition in an amount of 1 to 400% by weight of resin as a modifier to improve processability-, the microsilica being amorphous particulates having at least 70% by weight SiO₂, a specific density of 2.1 - 2.3 g/cm³, a surface area of 15-40 m²/g, and primary particle substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15 μm, the amorphous particulates obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to SiO-gas and oxidized in vapor phase.

5. (Currently Amended)

The method according to ~~claims~~ claim 4, wherein microsilica is added to the highly filled elastomeric composition in an amount of 5 to 300% by weight of resin.

6. (Currently Amended)

The method according to ~~claims~~ claim 4, wherein microsilica is added to the highly filled elastomeric composition in an amount of 10 to 150% by weight of resin.

7. (Currently Amended)

A method of using microsilica as a modifier to improve processability of a highly filled elastomeric composition comprising:

forming a highly filled elastomeric composition having an elastomeric resin and a filler content in an amount of about 15% to about 500% by weight of resin, comprising a step of and

adding microsilica in an amount of 1 to 400% by weight of resin of microsilica to said composition, the microsilica being amorphous particulates having at least 70% by weight SiO₂, a specific density of 2.1 - 2.3 g/cm³, a

surface area of 15-40 m²/g, and primary particles substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15 μm, the amorphous particulates obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to SiO-gas and oxidized in vapor phase.

8. (Currently Amended)

A method of using microsilica as a modifier to increase the limiting oxygen index of a flame-retardant highly filled elastomeric composition comprising:

forming a highly filled elastomeric composition
having an elastomeric resin and a filler in an amount
content of about 5% to about 500% by weight of the resin,
said filler includes aluminum trihydrate and/or magnesium
hydroxide; and comprising a step of
adding microsilica in an amount of 1 to 400% by weight
of resin of microsilica to said composition, the
microsilica being amorphous particulates having at least
70% by weight SiO₂, a specific density of 2.1 - 2.3 g/cm³, a
surface area of 15-40 m²/g, and primary particle
substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15
μm, the amorphous particulates obtained from a process in

which silica is reduced to SiO-gas and oxidized in vapor phase.